

立法會
Legislative Council

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 4 December 2013

**Amendments to motion on
“Establishing a low-income subsidy system”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 194/13-14 issued on 21 November 2013, six Members (Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki, Hon TANG Ka-piu, Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung, Hon Michael TIEN, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che and Hon Gary FAN) have respectively given notices of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon Frederick FUNG’s motion on “Establishing a low-income subsidy system” scheduled for the Council meeting of 4 December 2013. As directed by the President, the respective amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The President will order a joint debate on the above motion and the six amendments. To assist Members in debating the motion and the amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) the President calls upon Hon Frederick FUNG to speak and move his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon Frederick FUNG’s motion;
- (c) the President calls upon the six Members who wish to move amendments to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki;
 - (ii) Hon TANG Ka-piu;

- (iii) Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung;
 - (iv) Hon Michael TIEN;
 - (v) Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che; and
 - (vi) Hon Gary FAN;
- (d) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak;
 - (e) the President invites other Members to speak;
 - (f) the President gives leave to Hon Frederick FUNG to speak for the second time on the amendments;
 - (g) the President calls upon the public officer(s) to speak again;
 - (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the six Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki's amendment;
 - (i) after Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with the other five amendments; and
 - (j) after all amendments have been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon Frederick FUNG to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon Frederick FUNG's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Odelia LEUNG)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Establishing a low-income subsidy system”
to be held at the Council meeting of 4 December 2013**

1. Hon Frederick FUNG’s original motion

That this Council urges the Government, following the setting of a poverty line, to expeditiously establish a low-income subsidy system to support poor families.

2. Motion as amended by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

That *the setting of the poverty line by the Government at 50% of the median monthly domestic household income will render working-poor families with incomes slightly above the poverty line unable to benefit from poverty alleviation measures; in this connection*, this Council urges the Government, following the setting of a *the* poverty line, to expeditiously establish a low-income *family* subsidy system to support ~~poor families~~ *working-poor families with incomes between the poverty line and 60% of the median monthly domestic household income, especially families which are renting private residential units or ‘sub-divided units’, and those with extremely high proportion of housing expenses to monthly household incomes, so as to avoid the families concerned being persistently in a poverty state and falling into cross-generational poverty; the subsidy system should include:*

- (1) *to allow families with incomes lower than or equal to 60% of the median monthly domestic household income to receive subsidy, the amount of which will be reduced progressively with the increase in family income; and*
- (2) *to set a ceiling on the monthly amount of the subsidy at 10% of the median monthly domestic household income.*

Note: Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon TANG Ka-piu

That, *despite the obvious growth in Hong Kong economy in recent years, the grassroot workers' incomes have not significantly increased, and the problem of working poverty is still serious; in this connection*, this Council urges the Government, following the setting of a poverty line, to expeditiously establish a low-income subsidy system to support poor families *based on the principle of 'employment orientation and proactive alleviation of poverty'; the subsidy system should include:*

- (1) *to make the application for the subsidy on a household basis;*
- (2) *to require that at least one member of the family applying for the subsidy must be a working person;*
- (3) *families applying for the subsidy to undergo a simple means test;*
- (4) *to calculate the amount of subsidy based on the monthly working hours of the employed members of families applying for the subsidy, and if there is more than one employed member, the amount of subsidy will be calculated on the basis of the one with the highest number of working hours; and*
- (5) *if a family applying for the subsidy comprises members with disabilities or is a single-parent family, to adjust the requirements of the means test and the amount of subsidy to be granted, so as to take care of the additional needs of such families;*

at the same time, the Government should also continue to provide more channels for expression of opinions and listen to the views of society in respect of the low-income subsidy system and other poverty alleviation and prevention measures, so as to expeditiously formulate the current-term Government's poverty alleviation objectives and concrete policies, thereby resolving the problem of working poverty.

Note: Hon TANG Ka-piu's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

4. Motion as amended by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

That, *as the problem of working poverty in Hong Kong has become increasingly serious in recent years*, this Council urges the Government, following the setting of a poverty line, to expeditiously establish a *comprehensive* low-income *family living* subsidy system to support poor

~~families~~ *working-poor families which are in need to apply for subsidies through simple application procedures; the subsidy system should include:*

- (1) *to formulate the subsidy system based on the concept of a second-tier social safety net, so as to protect low-income families which are not receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance; due to differences in objectives, the subsidy system should not be integrated with the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme and student financial assistance schemes;*
- (2) *to set the income limits for families applying for the subsidy at 50% of the median monthly domestic household income in Hong Kong, and by using a regressive approach, grant the subsidy to families with incomes between 50% and 75% of the median monthly domestic household income in Hong Kong;*
- (3) *to grant additional subsidy to families comprising elderly people with special needs, persons with disabilities, students aged below 21 or school children with special learning disabilities; and*
- (4) *to make public the mechanisms for vetting and approval of applications and calculating the amount of subsidy, and conduct an annual review on the relevant mechanisms.*

Note: Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

5. Motion as amended by Hon Michael TIEN

That, *as the Government has already announced a poverty line at the Commission on Poverty Summit*, this Council urges the Government, ~~following the setting of a poverty line~~, to expeditiously establish a low-income subsidy system ~~to support poor~~, *including incorporating the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy Scheme therein and using Personalised Octopus to offer fare subsidies to low-income people, so as to encourage low-income people living in remote districts to work across districts, thereby supporting working-poor families.*

Note: Hon Michael TIEN's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

6. Motion as amended by Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

That, *as the disparity between the rich and the poor is serious in Hong Kong*, this Council urges the Government, following the setting of a poverty line, to *formulate poverty eradication targets and* expeditiously establish a low-income subsidy system to support poor families, *in an endeavour to reduce the poverty population by half within the term of the current Government.*

Note: Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type*.

7. Motion as amended by Hon Gary FAN

That, *as the Government only uses the poverty line set earlier as a tool of policy review without formulating prescriptive policies to support poor families*, this Council urges the Government, following the setting of a poverty line, to expeditiously establish a low-income subsidy system ~~to support~~ *with no asset test to comprehensively subsidize the different needs of various members of* poor families.

Note: Hon Gary FAN's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.